KENT COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2014 Annual Report

To serve, protect and promote a healthy community for all.
I am proud to report that in September 2014, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) conferred accreditation to the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) after more than two years of hard work. We became just the second health department in the state of Michigan to achieve this high honor.

The Health Department began preparations for completing national accreditation in January 2012. PHAB is the independent organization that administers the national public health accreditation program, which aims to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of the nation’s Tribal, state, local, and territorial health departments.

Our staff continues to excel in so many ways. More than a third of Kent County residents were vaccinated against flu. Eighty-two percent of toddlers ages 19-35 months are up to date on vaccines, compared with the state average of 74%. Our Nurse Family Partnership program celebrated ten years of helping mothers. We continue to reach out to children in schools to teach evidence-based programs. We grew our Health Equity and Social Justice outreach. Our sanitarians and epidemiologists jumped into action during a Midwest U.S. ground beef recall that sent some people to the hospital. And we had a record year for pet adoptions. So much of what we do goes unheralded, but we do it, day in and day out.

Our mission is to “Serve, protect and promote a healthy community for all.” We appreciate the support of our local leaders as we continue to work in our communities, with our communities, for our communities, to keep Kent County healthy.

The four divisions of the Kent County Health Department provide different services with common goals: preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting the health of the community.
Where to Find Us

KCHD’s Main Clinic and Administrative Offices are centrally-located in Kent County, at 700 Fuller Avenue NE, Grand Rapids. This location near I-196 serves as headquarters for most of our public health workers. On the same campus, you will find our state-of-the-art animal shelter. Three satellite clinics provide easy access to many clinical services for residents county-wide.

(616) 632-7100
www.accessKent.com/Health

1. Main Clinic
700 Fuller Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

2. Animal Shelter
740 Fuller Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

3. Sheldon Clinic
121 Franklin SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

4. North County Clinic
4388 14 Mile Road NE
Rockford, MI 49341

5. South Clinic*
4700 Kalamazoo Avenue SE
Kentwood, MI 49508


GENERAL INFORMATION
Toll-free from 616 or 231 area codes (888) 515-1300
Administration/Director's Office (616) 632-7280
Animal Shelter (616) 632-7300
Community Clinical Services (616) 632-7203
Community Wellness (616) 632-7058
Environmental Health (616) 632-6900
Kent County Medical Examiner's Office (616) 632-7247
Communicable Disease/Epidemiology (616) 632-7228
Personal Health Services (616) 632-7171
WIC/Vaccines (616) 632-7200
Health Department Leadership

Administrative Health Officer: Adam London, RS, MPA
Deputy Administrative Health Officer: Teresa Branson, MHA
Medical Director: Mark Hall, MD
Finance Director: Gail Brink, CPA
Community Clinical Services Director: Christopher Bendekgey
Community Wellness Director: Joann Hoganson, RN, MSN
Environmental Health Director: Eric Pessell, REHS

2014 Community Health Advisory Committee

Commissioner Shana Shroll (Chairperson)  Paul Haan
Commissioner Emily Brieve  Ron Koehler
Stephen Alsum  Nora Norton
Mishelle Bakewell  Dr. Lori Pearl-Kraus
Denise Garman  Savator Seldon-Johnson
Dr. Mark Swan

2014 Community Outreach
WIC and Community Wellness Staff at GRPS Back to School Event
2014 KCHD REVENUES

- LICENSES & PERMITS: $1,900,486 (8%)
- TRANSFERS IN: $4,544,393 (19%)
- REIMBURSEMENTS: $5,827,270 (25%)
- FINES & FORFEITURES: $113,555 (1%)
- OTHER REVENUE: $618,238 (3%)
- INTERGOVERNMENTAL: $9,293,834 (40%)
- CHARGES FOR SERVICES: $1,026,280 (4%)
- 2014 KCHD EXPENSES

- PERSONNEL: $16,052,894 (70%)
- CONTRACTUAL SERVICES: $3,137,166 (13%)
- COMMODITIES: $2,079,434 (9%)
- OTHER: $1,316,290 (6%)
- CAPITAL OUTLAY: $388,274 (2%)
Oversight and planning starts in Administration. Epidemiologists, program managers, communications, emergency preparedness, finance and information technology make up this division. Administration sets quality improvement goals and establishes the overall direction and vision of the Kent County Health Department.

Public Health Accreditation
PHAB Team Leaders included staff from every KCHD Division
Emergency Preparedness Program

In November, peer reviewers from health departments across the nation performed the Kent County Health Department review of emergency preparedness plans/systems for Project Public Health Ready. The plans met 287 measures required for accreditation.

Program Declared “Model Practice”

In August, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) announced the Interconception Care (IC) Program as a Model Practice. This program helps women who have experienced a miscarriage, a premature birth, and/or a low birth weight baby during their most recent pregnancy. The IC program coaches women who want another baby on how to put themselves in a good position for a healthy birth outcome. On average those subsequent pregnancies have lasted two weeks longer and produced newborns that were 2.2 lbs. heavier. The practices NACCHO designates as a model are shared with other health departments, so others can benefit from them.
Community Clinical Services provides immunizations, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), breastfeeding education, nutrition education, sexually-transmitted infection (STI) testing, and much more. Counseling and assistance from a variety of programs are designed to prevent disease and promote good health.

Community Clinical Services

- School Immunization Reporting
- Immunization Nurse Educator In-services
- Immunization Services
- Public Health Clinics
- Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV Clinic
- Tuberculosis Control and Prevention
- Vaccine For Children Program
- WIC (Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children)
- Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program
- Travel Immunizations
- Lead Screening

WIC Grows Stronger Children

- 20,506 average monthly enrollees in WIC Program.
- $14 million went back into the community from food purchases made by WIC participants.
- 16,173 WIC participants served by Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program (80% increase in initiation rate).
- 85,184 client visits at KCHD and three Subcontracted Clinic* Sites.

(*Baxter Community Holistic Health Center, Clinic Santa Maria, and Cherry Health)
Community Clinical Services

Immunizations Keep Kids, Adults Healthy

- 20,909 Immunization visits:
  - 718 visits for international travel;
  - 30,871 doses of vaccine administered.
- 276 Kent County schools reported at 100% compliance for 31,948 children.
- 224 Child care centers reported at 98% compliance for 13,110 children.
- 2,127 Visits for TB testing.
- 37 Immunization Nurse Educator trainings to Kent County providers.
- 54 Vaccines for Children (VFC) office audits.
- 30 Immunization Nurse Educator trainings provided.

Personal Health Services

- 4,894 Client visits.
- 4,241 Sexually Transmitted Infection tests.
- 653 Tuberculosis tests.
- 3,032 HIV tests conducted.
- 100% Newly diagnosed HIV+ clients received counseling, results, and a risk reduction plan.
Community Wellness builds healthy foundations for youth and families in Kent County. Nurses, dietitians, social workers, clerks, community health workers, and vision and hearing technicians provide services to a diverse population throughout Kent County. Staff members work with parents and children, often in their homes, to make sure they are leading healthy lives.

Women’s Health Network

In 2014, the Kent County Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program expanded to Ottawa and Muskegon Counties.

- 1,450 Screenings completed.
- 452 Diagnostics performed and covered.
- 59 Cancers detected and treated.
Helping Our Children

- 1,853 Strong Beginnings home visits made.
- 732 Refugee health screens performed by our Refugee team.
- 56 Children with high blood lead levels served by our lead program.
- 27 Women graduated from Nurse Family Partnership.
- 10,973 Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) home visits made.
- 627 Maternal and 1338 infant clients served by MIHP.
- 198 People enrolled through our Medicaid Enrollment program.
- 2,659 Children enrolled in Children’s Special Health Care Services.
- 87,512 Children screened by our Hearing & Vision Technicians.

Making You Move

KCHD received two major grants promoting more active lifestyles in Grand Rapids neighborhoods:

- REACH – Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health is a four-prong approach to help fight chronic illness.
- Active Living grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health to add walking routes in Roosevelt Park, Garfield Park and Grandville Avenue areas to promote physical activity.

Health Equity & Social Justice Dialogue Workshops

- 99 people attended in 2014.
- Mandatory for all KCHD staff.
- Trainings made available for staff from other county departments and community partner agencies.
Environmental Health programs cover a wide spectrum. This division protects people from illness and injury by assuring the quality of regulated environments. This division also oversees a lab and the Kent County Animal Shelter.

- Animal Shelter
- Body Art Facility Inspections
- Campground Inspections
- Child Care/Adult Foster Care Facility Inspections
- Food Service Sanitation
- Housing Program
- Laboratory Services
- Land Development (Subdivisions and Site Condominiums)
- Nuisance Control Program
- Private Water Supply
- Public Swimming Pools
- Public Water Supply
- Radon Testing
- Sanitary Facility Evaluation
- Sewage Disposal System Regulation
- Toxic Substance Control
- Vacant Land Evaluation

Safe Dining

- 3,024 Routine Audits.
- 685 Follow-Ups.
- 203 Complaint investigations.
- 454 Temporary food facility inspections.
- 62 Enforcement Actions.
- 471 Food Safety Awards issued to establishments for safe food handling practices.
Environmental Health

West Nile Virus

KCHD received a State grant to increase mosquito surveillance in 2014. Staff found two locations where mosquitoes were carrying West Nile Virus; the community treated the areas with larvicide. Only one illness was reported county-wide in 2014.

Ensuring a Quality Environment

- 18,987 chemical/bacterial drinking & swimming water tests processed by Public Health Laboratory.
- 356 Public swimming pool inspections completed.
- 20 Public campground inspections completed.
- 232 Adult and childcare facilities inspected.
- 811 Septic permits issued.
- 773 Well permits issued.
- 1,275 Inspections of wells and septic systems completed.
- 128 Housing-related complaints investigated.
- 6 Subdivision plans reviewed.
- 63 Body art facilities regulated/complaints investigated.
Kent County Animal Shelter

Shelter staff worked with numerous partner agencies to achieve better outcomes for stray and unwanted pets. These partnerships led to the highest live release rates the shelter has ever recorded.

5,650 animals lost, stray or surrendered by owners entered the shelter:

- 1,028 were adopted;
- 662 were reclaimed by owners;
- 582 were transferred to other organizations for placement.

In 2014, Animal Control Officers (ACOs) from the Kent County Animal Shelter responded to disasters and criminal cases.

- In June, fire damaged a boarding facility near Rockford; ACOs helped safeguard the 25 pets that were saved.
- ACOs investigated a woman who neglected 37 dogs in a home in Grand Rapids. Staff found homes for 36 dogs (losing one to cancer).
- In July, a tornado hit a boarding facility with 40 dogs in it. ACOs rescued and held them until owners could retrieve them.
In August 2014, the new South Clinic opened in the former Kentwood Library. Kent County Health Department provides public health services under the same roof as Michigan Community Dental Clinics, who provides dental/oral health care. The project was nearly three years in the making and was made possible from a generous philanthropic community and a great relationship between Kent County and the City of Kentwood. Satellite clinics in Kentwood and Wyoming merged into the new location. Our clients are experiencing larger waiting and consultation rooms in a much brighter, comfortable environment.
...a look at our efforts to keep Kent County Healthy!